

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please AMEND the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

-- This application is based on and hereby claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/JP2004/004423 filed on March 29, 2004 and Japanese Application No. 2003-099325 filed on April 2, 2003, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. --

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11 (Item 6), with the following paragraph:

-- 6. A direct type backlight device comprising, in this order: a plurality of linear light sources; the light diffusion plate according to items 1 to 5; and an optical film, wherein a degree of brilliancy of at least a surface of the light diffusion plate, which contacts with the optical film plate, is from 20 to 70%. --